

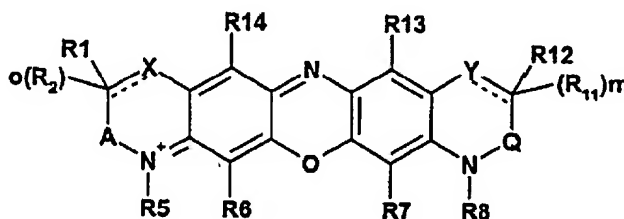
Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following as the first paragraph beneath the title on page one of the specification.

This application is the National Stage of Application No. PCT/EP2004/009225, filed on August 17, 2004, which claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisionals Application Nos. 60/49,921, filed August 18, 2003. The contents of both are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please insert the following text as the Abstract:

Abstract



The present invention provides compounds of formula (I) wherein X and Y represent CH, CH₂ or a divalent or trivalent heteroatom under the proviso that X and Y are not simultaneously CH or CH₂; m and o represent independently of each other 0 or 1, with the proviso that if m is 0 then the dotted line between Y and the neighboring C atom represents a bond and Y is CH or a trivalent heteroatom, if m is 1 then the dotted line between Y and the neighboring C atom is absent and Y is CH₂ or a divalent heteroatom, if o is 0 then the dotted line between X and the neighboring C atom represents a bond and X is CH or a trivalent heteroatom, if o is 1 then the dotted line between X and the neighboring C atom is absent and X is CH₂ or a divalent heteroatom; A represents (CH₃CR₄)_p and Q represents (CR₉R₁₀)_n; n and p represent independently of each other 0 or 1; R₆, R₇, R₁₃ and R₁₄ denote independently of each other hydrogen, halogen, (C₁₋₄)alkyl, (C₁₋₄)alkylSO₂, SO₃H, carboxy, (C₁₋₄)alkoxy carbonyl, (C₁₋₄)alkoxy, OH or NR₁₅R₁₆; R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁ and R₁₂ denote independently of each other hydrogen, (C₁₋₄)alkyl, carboxy, (C₁₋₄)alkoxy carbonyl or (C₁₋₄)alkoxy, or, when X is CH or CH₂ then R₁ and R₂ can also be OH or NR₁₅R₁₆, or when Y is CH or CH₂ then R₁₁, R₁₂ can also be OH or NR₁₅R₁₆; R₅, R₈, R₁₅ and R₁₆ are independently of each other hydrogen, (C₁₋₄)alkyl, (C₁₋₄)alkoxy, R₁₇O-C(O)-(C₁₋₄)alkyl or (reactive group)-(C₁₋₄)alkyl; and R₁₇ represents hydrogen or

(C₁₋₄)alkyl; compositions comprising such compounds, a process for the production of such compounds of formula (I), a method of labeling target structures, especially amyloid plaques, in the brain, a method for identifying Alzheimer's disease, use of a compound of formula I as a near-infrared imaging agent and a conjugate comprising a compound of formula (I) covalently linked to a biomolecule through a reactive group.